

WCC seeking operating millage renewal on Aug. 4

For 60 years, Washtenaw County taxpayers' investment in Washtenaw Community College has strengthened our workforce, fueled our economy and expanded opportunities across the community.

On August 4, WCC is requesting a continuation of that support in the form of a millage renewal on the primary ballot.

The purpose of the proposal is to renew an operating millage that was



previously approved by county voters in 2016.

WCC is seeking to renew the millage for a 10-year period from 2027 through 2036.

"Washtenaw Community College

exists because of its supportive community," explains WCC President Dr. Rose B. Bellanca. "From the decisive 1965 vote that established the college to the resounding voter approval of the previous millage requests, Washtenaw County residents have supported WCC every step of the way.

"As we celebrate 60 years of opening doors, we have achieved countless milestones together.

"On behalf of the entire college, I thank residents for helping us fulfill our mission and shape brighter futures."

The millage renewal request would provide essential support for WCC programs, student services, information technology, advanced equipment and training labs aligned with industry standards.

See **MILLAGE RENEWAL**, page 3



Washtenaw Community College

ON THE RECORD

ontherecord.wccnet.edu

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JULY 2026

Join us for Fall classes beginning August 31

Registration open, free application available online, staff ready to help

Who's ready to pursue their dreams?

Registration is ongoing for the Fall 2026 semester at Washtenaw Community College with on-campus, online and mixed mode classes starting on Monday, August 31.

Additional sessions begin on September 23 (Session II), October 1 (Session III) and October 23 (Session IV). Classes with later starting dates cover the same material at an accelerated pace, ideal for working adults with family and job responsibilities.

Visit wccnet.edu/enroll to complete a free application, schedule an in-person or virtual campus visit, review areas of study, enroll and register for classes.

WCC offers more than 140 university transfer and career education associate degree and certificate programs, 50 of which can be completed entirely online.

At \$99 per in-district student credit, WCC's tuition is the lowest in the state for county residents. Students who attend WCC save up to \$20,000 per academic year compared to four-year public and private institutions in Michigan. ●

EDUCATION THAT FITS YOUR LIFE



PHOTO BY ROB HALL

From teens to seniors, Washtenaw Community College is proud to serve students at every stage of life and every point in their educational journey.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

WCC helps adults get the training they want without stepping away from responsibilities they already have

By **DR. ROSE B. BELLANCA**
WCC President

For many, earning a college degree can feel like an impossible challenge.

Between work schedules, family responsibilities and the countless demands of daily life, higher education often gets pushed aside – not because the desire isn't there, but because finding time seems out of reach.

At Washtenaw Community College, we believe education should fit into your life.

You shouldn't have to rearrange your life to fit into college.

That philosophy is reflected in who our students are. The average age of our students is 25.2 years old. Nearly half (49.3%) are older than 22, and one in 10 is over the age of 40. Our Class of 2026 graduates reflected that same reality, with an average age of 28.1 years old.

These numbers tell an important story. Many of our students are balancing coursework with full-time jobs, raising families, serving in the military, changing

careers or returning to college after years away from the classroom.

They are not following a traditional path, which is exactly why WCC has built an educational experience designed around their needs.

We know learning doesn't happen only on weekdays between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. That's why students can choose from online, in-person and hybrid classes,

See **FROM THE PRESIDENT**, page 4

MORE ONLINE

Call 734-973-3543, email info@wccnet.edu or scan the QR code below for help enrolling at WCC.



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WCC programs are
affordable, flexible and
nationally recognized!

ENROLL FOR **FALL '26**
SEMESTER TODAY!

wccnet.edu/enroll



Publisher: Rose B. Bellanca, Ed.D.
President, WCC

Executive Editor: Lori Mouton
Chief Marketing and
Communications Officer

Editor/Designer: Rich Rezler
Communications Director

Writer: Fran LeFort
Media Relations Director

Comments and suggestions are
welcomed. Email editor Rich Rezler
at rezler@wccnet.edu or call 734-
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Washtenaw Community College
strives to make a positive differ-
ence in people's lives through ac-
cessible and excellent educational
programs and services.

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Questions about the WCC
programs and services described in
this publication should
be directed to the Office of
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hlcommission.org. Call 734-
973-3300 for information about
Washtenaw Community College.

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The following office has been
designated to handle inquiries
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Services, SC 251, 734-973-
3536. Facility access inquiries:
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5322. If you have a disability
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participate in an on-campus event,
contact Learning Support Services
at 734-973-3342 to request
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Title II Student Right to Know and Campus Security Act Compliance Statement

The Student-Right-to-Know
and The Crime Awareness &
Campus Security Act of 1990 (also
known as the Clery Act) requires
institutions to disclose information
about graduation rates, crime
statistics, and security information
to current and prospective
students. Individuals interested in
obtaining this type of information
should contact the Dean of
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PHOTOS BY JD SCOTT

A new grant-funded mobile classroom will allow Washtenaw Community College to provide flexible, accessible learning experiences throughout the Washtenaw County region.

Training on the move

Grant-funded mobile classroom takes WCC into the community it serves

Washtenaw Community College added
a new grant-funded mobile classroom to
provide flexible, accessible learning experi-
ences throughout the Washtenaw County
region.

Designed to meet students where they are
— in neighborhoods, schools, community
centers, workplaces and partner locations —
the 48-foot-long unit is designed to deliver a
full classroom experience.

With dual-expandable sides and approxi-
mately 1,000 square feet of space, the unit
is built for instruction, demonstrations, pre-
sentations and community engagements.

It can seat up to 20 students in a tradi-
tional classroom or lecture-style setting, or
be reconfigured to host a variety of events

and interactive showcases. The tempera-
ture-controlled unit also features state-of-
the-art equipment and wireless internet.

"The mobile classroom brings WCC
directly into the communities we serve,
creating new opportunities for people to
explore education, workforce training and
career pathways close to home," said WCC
President Dr. Rose B. Bellanca.

"By meeting students where they are,
we're expanding access, removing barriers
and strengthening our connection to com-
munities throughout Washtenaw County."

Grants from M-STAR (Michigan Semicon-
ductor Talent and Technology for Automo-
tive Research) and D3C3 (Detroit Drives
Degrees Community College Collaborative)

MORE ONLINE

To explore opportunities to
bring the mobile classroom to
your community event, visit
washtenaw.cc/mobile.



funded the project.

The WCC Mobile Classroom is currently
scheduled for 14 events through September,
including community festivals and gather-
ings where people can find out more about
WCC and its offerings, apply for enrollment,
or participate in lectures and hands-on
learning opportunities. ●

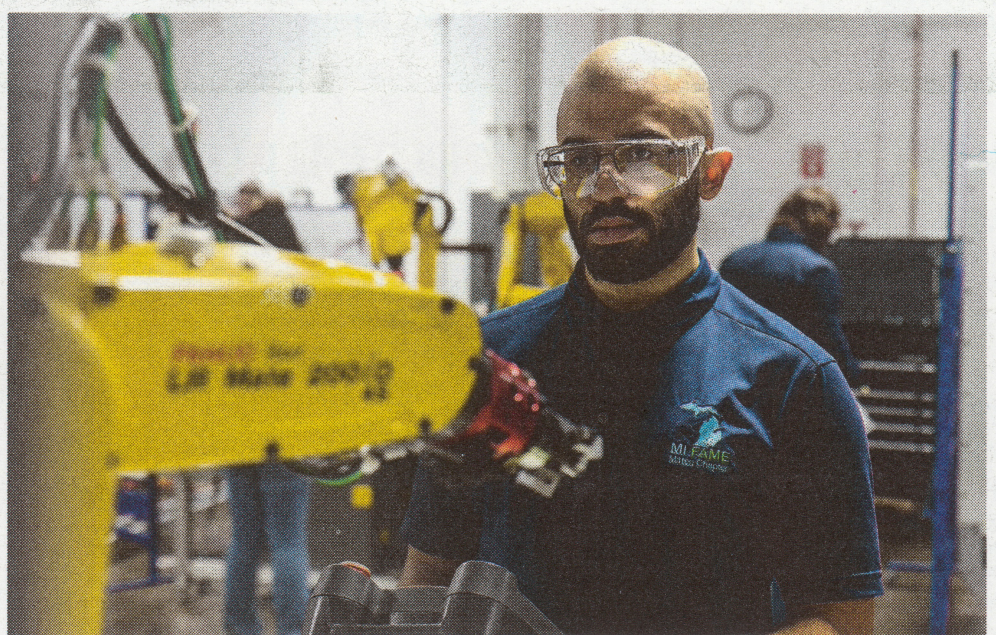


The 1,000-square-foot mobile classroom can be configured to host up to 20 students in a traditional classroom-style setting. Without tables, it can host interactive showcases (left) and a variety of training, such as a welding simulator (right).



PHOTO BY JD SCOTT

WCC FAME program graduate Christopher
Birchfield (left) now serves as an apprentice mentor
for MTS Systems. In the above photo, he welcomes
new student Jacob Taljoinick to the organization.
The FAME apprentices receive paid, on-the-job
training while earning a Mechatronics associate
degree in WCC's state-of-the-art labs, like program
graduate Andrew Denton (right).



New FAME apprentices earning while they're learning

Washtenaw Community College continues
to strengthen Michigan's advanced manu-
facturing workforce through its partnership
with the Federation for Advanced Manu-
facturing Education (FAME).

The college welcomed its fourth cohort of
14 students to the MI FAME Mitten Chapter
during a Signing Day event on June 15. The
chapter is Michigan's only affiliate of the
nationally recognized program.

The five-semester FAME program com-
bines classroom instruction with paid
industry experience, allowing students
to earn a Mechatronics associate degree
while developing technical and professional

skills sought by advanced manufacturing
employers. Students spend three days a
week at work, completing more than 1,800
hours of paid, hands-on training, and two
days a week in classes at WCC.

Interest in the program continues to grow,
with more than 40 applicants competing for
the available positions in this year's cohort.

Eleven employer partners participate in
the program, including eight sponsoring
new cohort members this year: EDJY,
Guardian Glass, Moeller Aerospace, MTS
Systems, Novi Precision, Orbitform, Toyota
Research & Development North America
and VRSL.

Three students will participate in the
academic component of the program and
remain available to fill openings if a cohort
member leaves the program. ●

PHOTOS

Visit washtenaw.cc/pics
or scan the QR code to
see more photos from
FAME Signing Day, the
Mobile Classroom
Open House and other WCC events.





Washtenaw
Community College

MILLAGE RENEWAL AUGUST 4

On August 4, 2026, Washtenaw County residents will see a proposal to renew the college's operating millage. This 10-year renewal continues the essential funding originally approved by voters in 2016.

Learn more at wccnet.edu/millage

UNDERSTANDING MILLAGE RENEWAL BALLOT LANGUAGE

PROPOSAL SECTION

WASHTENAW COMMUNITY COLLEGE OPERATING MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL

This proposal will permit the College to continue to levy up to 0.85 mill that was previously approved by electors to fund operations for 10 years. Of the 0.85 mill, 0.8109 mill represents a renewal of the 0.85 mill authorization approved by the electors in 2016, which will expire with the 2026 tax levy and 0.0391 mill represents a restoration of that portion of the same millage authority which was reduced by application of the Headlee Amendment. Shall the limitation on the total amount of taxes which may be imposed on taxable property within the Washtenaw Community College district, State of Michigan, be increased by 0.85 mill (\$0.85 per \$1,000 of taxable value) for a period of 10 years, the years 2027 to 2036, inclusive, as a renewal of the 0.8109 mill previously authorized by the electors which expires with the 2026 levy plus new additional millage in the amount of 0.0391 mill, to provide funds for operating purposes?

YES
NO

It is estimated that 0.85 mill would raise approximately \$21,933,415 when first levied in 2027.

This means that WCC is seeking a renewal that is the same amount approved by voters in 2016. WCC is seeking to renew the millage for a 10-year period from 2027 through 2036 at the same rate.

With voter approval of the 0.85 mill ballot proposal, the WCC tax rate will be the same as it was in 2016. Returning to this tax rate will require a renewal of 0.8109 mills and a restoration of 0.0391 mills. The renewal is about \$85 a year or 23 cents a day for a \$100,000 home in Washtenaw County.

Why is this millage renewal proposal necessary?

This millage renewal provides essential support for WCC programs, student services, information technology, advanced equipment and training labs aligned with industry standards.

KEEP UP THE
Good Work

Local leaders discuss their relationship with Washtenaw Community College



By DIANE KELLER

President & CEO,
Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Regional Chamber

At the Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Regional Chamber, we count ourselves incredibly lucky to call Washtenaw Community College a close partner and friend.

Whether they are opening their doors for a major community event or building a custom training program from scratch, WCC always seems to know exactly what local businesses need before we even ask.

For our team, the Morris Lawrence Building is a true home away from home. We have hosted everything from educational small business workshops and lively public policy lunches to our massive annual Year Ender in that beautiful, adaptable space.

But what we love most about WCC is that their work is deeply rooted in the people we see every day.

Their team understands that workforce development isn't just about filling open job slots. It is about helping a local employer find the right teammate and giving a student or career-changer a real, confident foothold in the future.

When we talk to local business owners, finding talent is almost always their biggest worry. WCC steps right into that gap with our members, creating apprenticeships and professional certificate pathways that work in the real world.

They are the ultimate matchmakers, connecting people who are eager to learn with businesses that are ready to invest in them.

We also get a front-row seat to the incredible economic boost from their skilled trades and union partnerships.

It is amazing to watch visiting instructors and trades professionals pour nearly \$23 million annually into our local hotels, restaurants and shops.

To us, WCC is so much more than an educational institution — they are our neighbors and partners. The A2Y Chamber is deeply grateful for their steady leadership and their heart for building opportunities right here at home.

Our entire community is stronger because of them, and we can't wait to see what we accomplish together next.

MILLAGE RENEWAL

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More directly, renewing the millage supports:

- **\$99 tuition**, the lowest of any college in Michigan for Washtenaw County residents.
- **25,000 students** each year with high-quality instruction to help them enter the workforce, advance or change careers, or transfer to pursue a bachelor's degree.
- **Being the No. 1 college choice** for Washtenaw County high school graduates.
- **Being the top transfer school** to the University of Michigan.
- **\$524 million** in estimated overall economic impact and 8,000 jobs annually generated through training and educating students who live and work in our community.

MORE DETAILS ONLINE

If you have questions or need more information about the millage renewal proposal, visit wccnet.edu/millage or call 734-677-5000.



■ **\$23 million** of economic impact generated by the 6,000+ trades professionals who train on WCC's campus each year, shop in area stores, stay in our hotels and dine in our restaurants.

■ **54,000 tuition scholarships** totaling \$7.7 million for senior citizens age 65 and older.

■ **100,000+ conference services guests** at the Morris Lawrence Building and 4,500 community events on campus annually.

Senior Focus for WASHTENAW COUNTY

Topics include fitness, yoga, dance, visual arts, history and more.

Washtenaw County residents age 65 years or older (before the start of the semester), can take classes at many convenient locations throughout the county. Classes are requested by and designed especially for older adults.

For class details and registration, contact the individual centers. The phone numbers and street addresses are available at wccnet.edu/senior-focus or by calling 734-390-9675.



WCC, Roofers sign 10-year extension

Partnership continues economic opportunity for Washtenaw County

By FRAN LeFORT
Director of Media Relations

Washtenaw Community College and the United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers and Allied Workers signed a 10-year extension of their longstanding training partnership.

The agreement ensures the union's national Instructor Training Program will continue at WCC through 2035.

The Roofers Union is one of five trade unions that travel to WCC each summer for advanced training that generates about \$23 million annually for the local economy, according to a Destination Ann Arbor study.

Sarah Miller, President and CEO of Destination Ann Arbor, said the partnerships' impact extends "far beyond the training facility and the union members served."

"Each year, when union members travel to our community to learn and build skills at WCC, they also support our local hotels, restaurants, retail shops and attractions," Miller said. "This long-term commitment reflects the value of collaboration and the important role workforce training plays in creating strong economic opportunity for our community."

The WCC-Roofers Union agreement strengthens a partnership that prepares industry instructors from across North America with the latest technical knowl-



PHOTO BY JD SCOTT

Dignitaries on hand for the WCC-Roofers Union contract extension include (from left) Destination Ann Arbor Director of Sales & Service Al Snow, Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Regional Chamber President & CEO Diane Keller, Roofers Union Assistant to the President Jordan Ritenour, WCC Dean of Skilled Trades Training Marilyn Donham, WCC President & CEO Dr. Rose B. Bellanca, Roofers Union President Jim Hadel, Roofers Union Executive Director Keith Vitkovich, State Representative Jason Morgan, WCC Board of Trustees member Eileen Peck and Destination Ann Arbor Executive Vice President Mike Price.

edge, safety practices and instructional skills to train fellow union members.

"The extension of this agreement speaks to the trust we have built together and our shared commitment to developing the highly skilled workforce that America depends on," said WCC President Dr. Rose B. Bellanca.

Since the partnership began, the Roofers have brought more than 700 instructors to WCC for training.

"Providing our members the resources and knowledge to be successful in their respective positions is a fundamental obligation," said Roofers, Waterproofers & Allied Workers General President Jim Hadel. "Our partnership with WCC over the past six years has provided us the capacity to achieve that obligation. Today signifies not only our strong confidence in this partnership but a successful future for our union." ●



PHOTO BY JD SCOTT

Geof McSween was the first Roofers Union member to earn a WCC associate degree.

Roofers Union honors its first WCC graduate

At the conclusion of its annual summer Instructor Training Program in late June, the Roofers Union celebrated the first of its members to graduate from Washtenaw Community College.

Geof McSween earned an Industrial Training associate degree and a Construction Supervision certificate with a 3.97 GPA.

"I set out to complete a goal, and lo and behold, I finally did," McSween said. "Now I can act as an example for all the members who may be working their way up the ladder behind me."

Union members take online classes from WCC and can use their apprenticeship certification as credit for prior learning. ●

This is an excerpt of a longer story available at wccnet.edu/news.

Connecting education and employment

Lakeside Service leader helps shape WCC training, then hires college's graduates

By MORGAN NALEPA
Student Content Writer

For years, John Boylan has helped lead Lakeside Service Company, Inc., a family-owned heating, cooling and plumbing company serving the Ann Arbor, Brighton and Novi areas. The company has become a trusted name throughout Southeast Michigan, but its story began long before John stepped into a leadership role.

His father, Tom Boylan, founded the business more than 40 years ago. After taking some classes at Washtenaw Community College, he built a customer base the old-fashioned way – by knocking on doors.

"My dad started the business by going door-to-door offering to inspect furnaces," John Boylan said. "It's a great American business story."

Operating first out of the family's basement and later a garage workshop, Lakeside Service Company steadily expanded alongside the region it served. As air conditioning became increasingly common in homes, demand for HVAC services surged.

Today, John Boylan remains connected to WCC in a different way. He serves on the college's HVAC advisory board, helping faculty and industry leaders identify the

skills students need to succeed in today's workforce and ensuring curriculum stays aligned with industry needs.

"I trust WCC's instruction," Boylan said. "The trainers are really passionate about what they're doing, and the training is high quality."

That confidence led Lakeside to hire several WCC graduates as HVAC technicians, including recent graduates Bill Christie and Nathan Kubinec.

According to Boylan, earning an associate degree says something important about a candidate beyond technical ability.

"These are people who started something and followed through with it," he said.

Christie, who completed WCC's HVAC program in 2023, and Kubinec, who graduated in 2025, both credit the college's hands-on learning environment for helping prepare them for the industry.

The program emphasized troubleshooting, real-world simulations and applied problem-solving skills that translated directly to the workplace.

"The instruction was very helpful, and the hands-on training prepared me for the job," Kubinec said.

For students considering a career in the skilled trades, HVAC offers an attractive path. The median salary for HVAC mechanics and installers is \$58,364 with 1,641 anticipated annual openings in Michigan.

"It was something I saw was in high demand," Kubinec said.



PHOTO BY JD SCOTT

Lakeside Service Company, Inc. general manager John Boylan (center) hired recent WCC graduates Bill Christie (left) and Nathan Kubinec as HVAC technicians.

The partnerships with WCC help organizations create a reliable pipeline of trained employees ready to contribute from day one.

For Boylan, it's also a way to continue the values that helped his father build the company decades ago: investing in people and creating opportunities for the next generation. ●

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

continued from cover

along with evening and weekend options. Whether someone wants to complete a certificate, earn an associate degree, transfer to a university or gain new skills to advance in their current career, we offer pathways that make those goals attainable.

Every semester, we see inspiring examples of determination and perseverance. There are students who attend

class after working a full shift, parents who study after putting their children to bed, veterans who are translating leadership and service into new career opportunities, and adults who have decided now is the right time to pursue a goal they put on hold years ago.

Their success demonstrates something we have long understood: talent is everywhere, but opportunity must be accessible.

Community colleges play a unique role in workforce development because we are built around accessibility and

flexibility. Employers need skilled workers, and many of those future workers are already employed, supporting families and contributing to our communities.

By creating opportunities that accommodate work-life balance, community colleges help people gain the education and training they need without stepping away from the responsibilities they already have.

The result is a stronger workforce, a stronger economy and stronger communities.

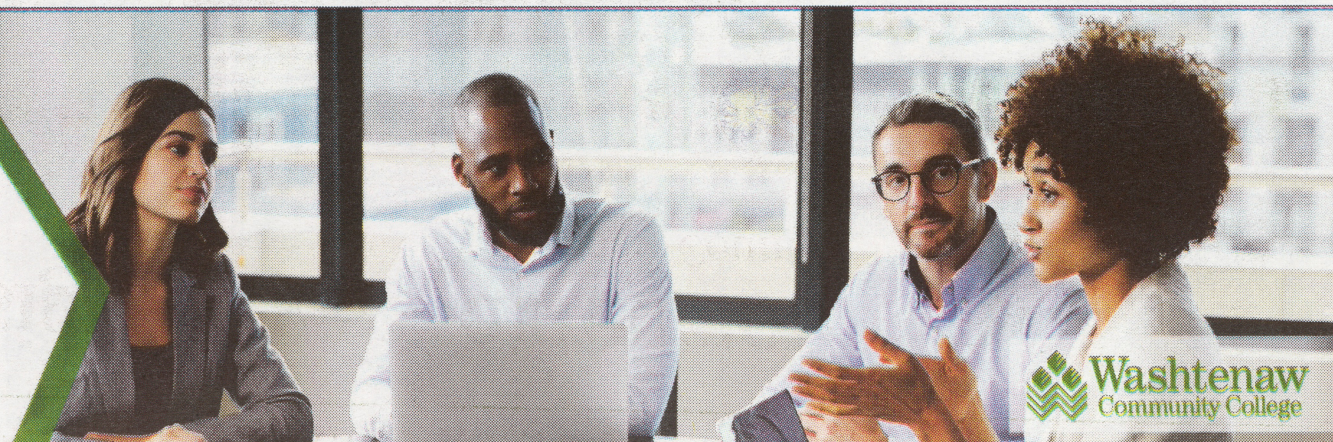
WCC is proud to serve students at every stage of life and every point in their educational journey. Whether someone is just beginning their college experience, preparing for a career change, seeking advancement in their current profession or planning to transfer to a four-year university, we are committed to meeting them where they are.

Earning a degree definitely is possible. When education is designed to fit real lives, more people can achieve their goals and build brighter futures. ●

What Do
You Call Someone
Who Attended WCC?
Employed.*

Enroll for Fall Today!
Classes start August 25

wccnet.edu/enroll



Washtenaw
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